

RECORD MADE BY THE CROPS

Of Wheat, Oats, Barley and Hay and Corn Crop Approaches the Record.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—The estimates of the department of agriculture for October 1 show record crops of wheat, oats, barley and hay, and a corn crop closely approaching the record. The returns to that department indicate a production of approximately three billion bushels of corn, one and a half billion bushels of oats, one billion bushels of wheat, almost a quarter billion bushels of barley, and a hundred million tons of hay, if the twenty million estimated tons of wild hay, a crop not heretofore reported upon, be included.

According to the reports received by the department, prospects improved during September for all of these crops. The conditions during the month were generally favorable to the maturity of growing crops, to harvesting and to fall plowing. The proportion of warm and sunny days was higher than in prior months, though there were rather general storms toward the close. The moisture for the month was normal or below, except in portions of the north-central states, particularly the northern central states. ETATON UNUN UN D ern tier. The droughty conditions in some gulf and western states were relieved by late rains in most states affected. Frost did little damage, except in portions of the extreme northern states.

Corn. Corn gained materially during the month, increasing the estimates of production 41,000,000 bushels, to a total of 3,025,159,000 bushels, within a few per cent of the record crop of 1912. Last year's crop and the average for the previous five years have been about 2,700,000,000. Corn matured rapidly during the fortnight of warm and sunny weather in September, but there was still much immature corn in the northern portions of the main corn belt of the central states that on October 1 required two and in some cases three weeks of freedom from severe frosts to assure practically complete maturity. The average date of killing frosts in the sections in question is usually by October 1. At that date comparatively little frost damage was reported except in Minnesota and the Dakotas and in the northern portions of Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. In the main corn belt the upland corn generally shows exceptionally heavy growth and yield, but much damage and loss to corn in the lowlands are reported. Much corn was thrown down in the fields by the severe storms of August and September. The crop in the Atlantic coast states gained during September, except in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. It lost slightly in the southern states east of the Mississippi river, but gained correspondingly west of the river.

Wheat. The promised production of spring wheat increased during September 22,000,000 bushels in the Dakotas, slightly in the western states. The total increase of about 23,000,000 bushels is sufficient to raise the estimate for total production of all wheat to over 1,000,000,000 bushels, the record for the United States. The prior record was established by the crop of 891,000,000 bushels last year, the average for recent years being in the neighborhood of 700,000,000 bushels. The quality of spring wheat is reported as 90.7 per cent against an average of 87.6 per cent, whereas winter wheat quality was reported in August as 4.5 per cent below the average. Spring wheat is generally heavy, particularly in Minnesota and the Dakotas, even where it was frosted, but in most states it is off color and somewhat high in starch and low in gluten content. The quality is fine to good in most of the western states except Colorado, the grain being very light and poor in the latter state.

Oats. The reports on oats indicate that yields are large practically everywhere. The estimate is 110,000,000 bushels greater than indicated on September 1. Yields of seventy-five to 100 bushels, and even over, are not infrequent in the reports, from the central West, particularly in Illinois and Iowa. The estimate shows the record crop of 1,517,418,000 bushels, and the record yield per acre of 37.8 bushels for the United States, since the government crop service was established in 1866. The crop last year was 1,141,060,000 bushels, and the average for the years 1909-1913 was 1,131,000,000 bushels. Though generally plump and heavy the marketing quality of the berry is reported as having been seriously lowered over much of the country by the excessive rains during and subsequent to harvest, this being particularly true in the heavy producing sections of the north central states. The quality in the eastern states is generally good or fair. In the South and West the quality varies greatly from extra high to poor.

Barley. Barley seems to have been exceptionally favored by the character of the season. The crop promise increased almost 14,000,000 bushels during September to 236,682,000 bushels, and the five year average being 194,953,000, and the five year average being 182,000,000. The estimated production is the greatest and the yield per acre the highest on record. In all important barley states an exceptional crop is reported. The quality was lowered in most states by rain and following harvest, the berry being stained and a large proportion of it unsuitable for malting purposes. It is unusually plump and heavy and its feeding value is not greatly impaired.

Buckwheat. Buckwheat in New York, Pennsylvania and other important producing states, the estimates indicate, deteriorated during September, having suffered some injury from frosts. The promise was reduced almost 1,000,000 bushels, to 16,738,000, against last year's production of 16,881,000 bushels.

Potatoes. Potatoes continued during September the serious decline begun in August, damage being generally reported from all of the more important producing states. Frost west of the Mississippi and blight east of the river covered the important potato states within a few days during the latter part of August, and have been followed throughout September by serious rotting both in the ground and of the harvested crop. Potatoes for home use are being shipped into heavy potato producing territory in eastern and southern Michigan. The late crop suffered most; in states where an early crop is produced it was generally good. The Colorado crop is reported as being the best in years, though some western states report deterioration. The yield forecast October 1, 368,151,000 bushels, is still slightly above the five year average though 64,000,000 bushels less than the favorable promise on August 1, and 38,000,000 bushels less than last year. The crop may be further reduced through loss in storage, as the keeping quality of the bulk of the crop threatens to be poor.

Sweet Potatoes. Sweet potatoes deteriorated slightly during September to eighty-five per cent, due principally to droughty conditions in the South.

Tobacco. Tobacco showed very slight deterioration during September in all states of important production except Tennessee, where a slight improvement was reported. A portion of this loss is ascribed by the reporters to lack of fertilizer, especially the potash content, this being particularly marked in the Carolinas, and to the effects of excessive moisture earlier in the season. In Kentucky most improvement was made in the Burley district, and least in the stem-ming district, where much of the area on lowlands was damaged beyond recovery. Tobacco is reported as poor in the one sucker district of that state. The indicated production of 1,098,804,000 pounds in the United States on October 1 is still above last year's crop of 1,034,679,000 pounds and about 100,000,000 pounds above the five year average, though a few million pounds below the record yield of 1910. Reports indicate that Pennsylvania and Wisconsin crops were injured by rain or hail during harvest, but conditions for cutting and drying were generally favorable during September, particularly in the south Atlantic states, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Flaxseed. Flaxseed is reported as having deteriorated somewhat during September in all important producing states, principally from frost damage, including the frosts at the close of August, the principal injury being to the late planted crop. The forecast crop of 17,655,000 bushels is still over 2,000,000 bushels in excess of last year's crop, though slightly under the crop of 1913, and very materially below

the 1912 crop of approximately 23,000,000 bushels.

Rice. Rice condition is reported at 80.9 per cent, slightly lower than the estimate of 82.3 on September 1, owing to fuller realization of the damage done by the August storm in Texas, and considerably below the ten year average of 86.5. There was some improvement in both Louisiana and Arkansas, but not sufficient to offset the loss in Texas.

Apple. Apple prospects, as reported, improved during September, increasing the promised production 433,000 barrels, to a total present prospect of 71,632,000 barrels total production, including both the commercial and non-commercial crop, compared with 84,400,000 barrels in 1914, 48,470,000 in 1913, and an average of 58,667,000 for the five years 1909-1913. The production this year is unusual in that it follows last year's record crop; a good crop following a bumper crop. The crop declined during the month in New England, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Washington and slightly in Virginia, held its own in New York, Michigan and Wisconsin, and improved in West Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Arkansas and California. The damage in New England and Pennsylvania was due largely to high winds blowing off the fruit. The early crop seems to have been somewhat better than the main crop.

Clover Seed. The reported condition of clover seed is 66.9 per cent, lower than the low figure of 68.3 reported October 1 last year, and much below the estimate of 76.1 in 1913. The condition is considerably poorer than last year in the principal producing states east of the Mississippi, being particularly poor in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, but much better than year in Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky and Tennessee. The principal cause for low production is that the constant rains, while beneficial to the growth of the plant, tended to wash out the blooms and prevented proper fertilization through the visits of bees and other insects. The western crop is generally reported as very good, excepting in Washington where dry weather was harmful.

Alfalfa Seed. The estimated yield per acre of alfalfa seed is 3.4 bushels against 3.7 bushels last year and 4.2 bushels in 1913. The yield is reported as extremely low (one bushel per acre) in Nebraska, and somewhat lower than last year in the far western states, except Colorado, Nevada and Iowa. The reported total production of alfalfa seed, 70.4 per cent, is also considerably below last year's figure of 77.3 per cent, notwithstanding material increase in the acreage of alfalfa due in part to the fact that considerable alfalfa intended for seed was cut for hay instead in view of the heavy growth of the plant and the poor yield of seed. The estimated production is much below the 1913 production of 89.4 per cent of a full crop. The same conditions that lessened production of clover seed were operative in the case of alfalfa seed.

Millet Hay. The production of millet hay, like all hays, is reported as comparatively high, 83.3 per cent, this year, owing to the generally abundant moisture, in comparison with the estimates of 80.4 and 61.8 in 1913 and 1914. The production of seed is also relatively high, 82.1 per cent, compared with 75.1 per cent and 62.1 per cent for 1914 and 1913.

Pastures. Pastures have almost maintained the exceptionally high figure reported last month, being now estimated at 96.5 per cent of normal, due to the abundant moisture and absence of serious frost damage. A limited number of reporters in widely separated districts speak of local pastures as being in general they are spoken of as exceptionally good, save in portions of the South and West where dry weather during the season has been unfavorable.

Grain Sorghums. Grain sorghums continue to show a high condition, 90.5 per cent, compared with an average of 80.3 per cent. The figures reported for Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico range from ninety to ninety-five per cent. This is primarily a dry land crop, but while the rains were in excess of normal in the great plains where the crop is principally produced, they were not so excessive as to be injurious.

Tomatoes, Cabbage, Onions. The tomato production reported is low, 72.6 per cent, compared with 77.9 per cent last year and 77 per cent in 1913. The excessive moisture caused the plant to run to vine, and later induced blight. The tomatoes failed to mature properly and rot was serious. Cabbages, to the contrary, are reported as yielding heavily, 6.7 tons per acre, almost a ton per acre in excess of last year's large yield. The total production in the United States is reported as being very high, 93.3 per cent of a full crop, compared with 80.4 last year and 71.2 in 1913. In Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa and Colorado the production reported exceeded a full normal crop by from five to twenty per cent. High production is reported throughout the entire country excepting the South. The onion crop, which promised exceptional yields and production earlier, has disappointed expectations, owing principally to losses from flooding of the fields, which drowned out a large part of the crop in Ohio and Indiana, and to rot occasioned by the excessive moisture. The yield for the United States is estimated at 175.2 bushels per acre against 189.6 bushels last year, and the production at 81.7 per cent of a full crop compared with 84.4 per cent last year and 77.6 in 1913.

Field Beans. The report of sixty-three per cent shows the smallest production this year compared with a full crop since the beginning of estimates on the crop by this bureau in 1906. The average is 81.1 per cent. This year's low figure is due to the extremely unfavorable conditions in the two important bean producing states of New York and Michigan, brought about by blight and rust in New York, and blight and anthracnose in Michigan, due to excessive rainfall and unfavorable temperatures in July and August. The quality in these states is very low. The crop in New Mexico, California and Colorado is very good. The

production of field beans in the South is fairly large, particularly that of velvet beans in Florida and adjoining east gulf states where the acreage of this crop is increasing rapidly.

Field Peas. The condition of field peas is very varied, high and low figures being reported. The condition of the Canadian pea crop of the North is considerably below that of last year, taken as a whole, while the southern crop of cowpeas is reported as somewhat higher than last year, being particularly high in South Carolina. Taken as a whole, there was considerable deterioration during September.

Grapes. Grapes show an improved condition, 85.3 per cent, as compared with the 81.6 per cent reported on September 1, due to an improvement of seven per cent in California where conditions are now reported at ninety-two per cent. The low condition in New York and Michigan on September 1 was still further lowered during September, and declines were registered from practically all other grape producing states.

Pears. The condition of pears is reported as having very slightly improved during September to 67.3 per cent, near the average. Reports of severe injury from blight are coming from practically all parts of the country.

Cranberries. The reported condition of cranberries, 73.2 per cent, registers slight improvement over the 72.2 reported September 1, being better in Massachusetts and not so good in Wisconsin, with no change in New Jersey.

Hemp. The yield of hemp in Kentucky is estimated at 1,070 pounds, a high figure, and the total indigo production is estimated at nearly eight million pounds compared with about 1,600,000 pounds last year, and 6,420,000 in the census year 1909. The recent extraordinary revival of interest in the production of this crop is indicated by these figures. In 1909 Kentucky produced nine-tenths of the total United States crop of hemp on 6,755 acres. This acreage diminished from year to year until it had fallen last year to 1,675 acres. This year the area planted to hemp in that state was increased to over 7,000 acres.

Sugar Cane. The condition of sugar cane, which was poor, 74.4 per cent, on September 1, continued to decline during that month and on October 1 was estimated at 67.4 per cent, compared with an average of 85.6 per cent, being sixty-five per cent in Louisiana against seventy-two per cent last month and eighty-seven per cent average. The hurricane of September 29, which swept the cane belt of Louisiana, did considerable apparent injury, but the best informed opinion is that the benefit of the heavy down-pour of rain and the better weather following the storm, will compensate for the damage and possibly more than offset the immediate loss to the crop.

Sorghum. Sorghum has about maintained its condition at 86.1 per cent, several per cent above the ten year average.

Sugar Beets. Sugar beets are estimated to have fallen off a fraction, to ninety-one per cent of normal, very near the ten year average. The crop is good in Michigan and adjoining states, except for some leaf spot and rot, good in Nebraska and Kansas, very good in Idaho and California, lowered by leaf spot in Colorado, and sugar content lowered by late rains starting new growth in Utah.

Hops. The estimated yield of hops is 1,042 pounds per acre for the United States against 985 pounds last year, and a ten year average of 1,065 pounds. Hops in New York are given at 530 pounds, Washington 1,750 pounds, Oregon 950 and California 1,800, an increase over last year in all the states except Oregon, where it remained the same.

Peanuts. The condition of peanuts has slightly declined, the average being 33.6 per cent, a little below last year, the same as 1913, and a trifle above the ten year average.

WOULD HAVE BLIND SOLDIERS BE DIVERS

Occupation is Extremely Suitable for Intelligent Men, Says Pearson.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS) LONDON, Oct. 30.—Deep water diving is one of the trades for which blinded soldiers may fit themselves, writes C. Arthur Pearson, chairman of the Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Care Committee. He says: "Diving is, I think, a quite new occupation for blind people. The diver who is building breakwaters and piers, works in the dark, for even if the water is clear, his work disturbs it and renders it impossible for him to see anything through it. The diver is one of the best paid of workmen. He has an attendant to look after him while below and when he returns to the surface and the occupation is one which I think will prove to be extremely suitable for intelligent blinded soldiers and sailors who have had some mechanical training."

Eat Pork

If You Wish to Live Long and Be Strong, Says an Old Farmer.

COLUMBUS, Ind., Oct. 30.—Do you wish to live long and be strong? Then eat pork three times a day, says Samuel Reynolds, a farmer here, who is 75 years old and can carry a sack of grain with the best. Reynolds eats pork three times every day and if he wishes a little snack of something between meals he eats a piece of pork. If he happens to need a bite of something before going to bed he eats a piece of pork. He never ate an apple in his life, and he never tasted any sort of fruit, butter or jelly.

NOW BEYOND HUNDREDTH MILESTONE

Venerable Foreman Taylor Enjoys Good Health on His Estate.

CUMBERLAND, Oct. 30.—Foreman Taylor, who has passed his one hundred and third birthday, at his home on a farm on the south branch of the Potomac river, says in an interview, regarding his remarkable vitality and unusual activity for one of his age that he attributes his long life to freedom from all dissipation, early rising and early rising and "tending to his own business." Mr. Taylor, although somewhat feeble, goes about his farm daily tending to smaller details, feeding his stock and in season works his garden.

Upon the occasion of Mr. Taylor's birthday last year, the Evening Times carried a cut of the entire Taylor family, along with a story of his life. Not long since his devoted wife died. The old gentleman was born and raised and has lived his entire life on the farm on which he now makes his home. He was born in an old log cabin just across the river from his present house. His two sons, who are now past three score and ten years, live close by their father. They are also well known, being familiarly called "Willie" Foreman and Brooke, by their wives and friends. The sons also have lived and farmed the south branch Taylor estate practically all their lives, and like their father have seldom traveled.

Remembers Earlier Presidents. Mr. Taylor well remembers such presidents of the United States as James Buchanan, Jackson, Taylor and earlier presidents. He was at one time active in political affairs and is a staunch Virginian in all his views. Despite his age Mr. Taylor has a keen appetite and is especially fond of apple butter and pumpkin pie, and vegetables, smoked and cured meats and milk.

Only until recently the old gentleman was able to read the newspapers without the aid of glasses. At the present time he reads the Evening Times and other papers with the aid of spectacles, never misses reading and takes a great interest in affairs pertaining to Cumberland, all national affairs and the great European war. Although Mr. Taylor does not make known his views on the European situation, it can readily be seen that he has chosen his life of the ultimate victor. In politics Mr. Taylor has also picked his choice for governor of Maryland and even for the next president of the United States.

Studies Crops. The old gentleman studies carefully the harvest crops of all farming districts in the United States of this year and compares them with the olden days when farming and harvesting were done entirely by hand, manual labor, farming machines being practically unthought of. He is also an excellent judge of milk producing and beef cattle, wool and mutton sheep, hogs, and best of all draft horses.

During the early days, eighty-five years ago, Mr. Taylor and his father did an extensive trading in all farm products between Washington, (Georgetown), and the South Branch farms, transporting their goods by flat plank boat, which would require several days to make the round trip. At times when water was low in the Potomac, (the canal was not built then) Mr. Taylor and his father were compelled to bring their craft home by pulling a most hazardous and laborious task. In those days trading goods for goods was extensive, when the money market was low. The Taylors would exchange farm products with Georgetown and Washington merchants in return for clothing and other articles that could not be produced on a farm. Mr. Taylor has accumulated a comfortable competence and now has many luxuries in his home which he thought, when a boy, were impossible. Mr. Taylor has frequently visited Cumberland, but he now says that traveling annoys him and that he would rather stay at home and live quietly among his children.

WIRELESS

Telegraphy Opens Polar Sea Route from Central Russia to Great Britain.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS) LONDON, Oct. 30.—Wireless telegraphy has opened a polar sea route from central Russia to Great Britain. Wireless stations established by the Russian government in the Arctic keep the vessels advised as to the channels free from ice. Acting on their information, two large vessels chartered by a Siberian trading company have just arrived at Grimsby with cargoes from the Yenesei and Obi districts of central Siberia, valued at \$1,750,000. The Obi and Yenesei are huge rivers with a great depth of water, taking steamers of any size. But it was not until lately that their navigation was put in practice.

Owing to the use of the trans-Siberian railway by the Russian government for war supplies, there are 3,000,000 tons of wheat held up in Siberia, besides enormous quantities of other produce. If this can be gotten out it will improve Russian exchange, which is now a serious problem among the allies.

Next year the company proposes to take about thirty steamers over the new White Sea route, laden with Siberian products. Even if the war ends before this time, it is pointed out that the Siberian railway will be more or less tied up with back business and the returning of troops.

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TEACHER FINDS A VAST OIL LAKE IN SNOWS OF ALASKA

Learns from Eskimos the Secret of Four Big Springs Oozing Grease.

SEATTLE, Oct. 30.—North on the snow wastes that form the rim of America—far beyond the Arctic circle—four oil springs that flow freely into a lake of oil have been discovered. This is the claim of W. B. Van Valin, of the United States bureau of education, who has come out of the frozen wilderness of the northwestern part of Alaska to sell for a fortune the staked out bounds of the springs of oil and the lake they have formed. Enthusiastic, bearing snapshots of his oil center, Van Valin arrived from Nome on the steamship Victoria. He is accompanied by his wife and little daughter, and was on his way to Tullock, Cal., where he expects to be assisted in his project by his father-in-law, a well-known oil man. He has obtained from the government a leave of absence of one year to dispose of what may turn out to be his liquid gold mine.

"There has been nothing like it in this country," said Mr. Van Valin quietly. "The oil is flowing out of

springs all the time. The flow remains the year around; oil does not freeze. Apparently a pressure of gas, indicating unlimited oil, has forced the oil to the surface.

The teacher's story of his discovery is in the nature of a romance. The native Eskimos, it seems, knew about the springs of oil and the little streams that trickled constantly from them. But they didn't understand the strange substance. To them it was an evil omen.

Finally, in puzzled desperation, two of the natives travelled over the ice and appealed to the white teacher, who, they thought, surely would know something of this strange substance that flowed when all else was frozen. Van Valin heeded the call. He hitched up a team of reindeer and, with the Indians, who also drove a reindeer team, mushed over the snow for 450 miles.

His photographs show limitless stretches of snow, broken by patches of dark, glassy liquid, which he points out as the oil. The discoverer has with him samples of the Arctic oil. Seemingly it is rich in quality. It has the odor and consistency of machine grease. In color it is deep green.